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October 29, 1959

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Mr. Emery S. Kober



Dear Mr. Kober:



I have your letter of October 3, 1959, with regard to your doctoral dissertation on certain phases of Italian developments.

The story of my relations with Ferruccio Parri during the war is a long one, and could hardly be contained in a letter. I considered him a leading anti-Fascist. I had been in touch with him directly and indirectly for some time prior to his arrest and imprisonment, and later liberation.

My objective in effecting his release was two-fold. One was to save a valuable asset for the Allied cause, and the other was to test out the sincerity of General Wolff's peace feelers. I did not wish to meet with General Wolff until he had given me evidence, not only of his authority, but his seriousness. Therefore, before consenting to see him, which I did on March 8, 1945, I demanded as a token of good faith, that he should release unharmed into Switzerland Ferruccio Parri then imprisoned, as I recall, in Verona, and an Italian army officer who was imprisoned in Milan. Both were released, and I therefore carried out my part of the arrangement, and received General Wolff at a secret meeting in Zurich.

I see no reason why you should not make use of the foregoing in your dissertation if you so desire, but I should prefer that it not be in quotes, but given as your understanding of what took place.

Faithfully yours,

AWD:at  
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Allen W. Dulles  
Director